

public service career of Ms. Janet M. Bedrosian. Ms. Bedrosian has honorably served the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for nearly 38 years and will retire on April 2, 2011.

Ms. Bedrosian was born in Tennessee and moved to Grass Valley, California, as an infant, where she grew up in California's Mother Lode country and graduated from Nevada Union High School as class valedictorian.

Ms. Bedrosian attended the University of Nevada-Reno, where she earned dual degrees in journalism and English. Ms. Bedrosian, currently the Deputy State Director, External Affairs at the BLM's California State Office, began her BLM career in 1973 at the Nevada State Office as its first public affairs staff member. She also worked in the Washington, D.C. office as Assistant Public Affairs Chief before returning to California to work in the state office as a public affairs specialist and congressional liaison. Ms. Bedrosian worked with California's 54-member Washington delegation, more than 120 full-time members of California's State legislature, and key State and local governments and their staffs. During this time, she built a robust and comprehensive congressional and legislative program that remains unequalled in the BLM's history. Her understanding of government processes and her ability to develop strong relationships have been crucial to many of the BLM's and Department of the Interior's successes, particularly in California.

Issues for which Ms. Bedrosian played a key role include the coordination between elected officials, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the BLM that resulted in passage of the California Desert Protection Act—the largest piece of wilderness legislation in the contiguous United States ever to come before Congress.

Ms. Bedrosian is well respected for her knowledge of land management and her ability to handle complex issues. Due to these attributes, a former BLM Director called upon her to act as the BLM's Chief of Staff in 2007.

For her dedication, expertise, and service, Ms. Bedrosian has been honored with the two highest awards from the Department of the Interior—the Meritorious Service Award in 2007 and the Department's highest civilian honor, the Distinguished Service Award, presented to her in 2010. According to the Interior Department, "Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award must have demonstrated extremely significant long-term contributions to Departmental programs and missions." These awards are signed by the Secretary of the Interior and have been presented since 1948. Ms. Bedrosian is recognized nationally as an expert, a leader, and among the best External Affairs managers the BLM has ever had.

Outside the workplace, Ms. Bedrosian enjoys politics, travel, and making cookies. But mostly, she enjoys her family: husband Tod, son Sean, and daughter Kate; and her three sisters, brother, and father, all of whom live in the Sacramento area.

Ms. Bedrosian's nearly four-decade career in public service deserves the highest appreciation and commendation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Janet Bedrosian on a successful career and in wishing her happiness in her retirement.

HONORING MR. RALPH C. LORIGO

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ralph C. Lorigo and his many years of dedicated service to Western New York.

Ralph was born on July 17th, 1947 to Ralph E. and Caroline (Juliano) Lorigo. He attended St. Lucy's School on Swan St. through the age of 12 and went on to West Seneca High School after his family moved to West Seneca in 1960. Upon graduation from high school, Ralph earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Buffalo. He would go on to attend the University of Buffalo Law School, earning his juris doctorate degree in May of 1973.

Ralph's interest in politics, which was certainly passed on to him from his mother Caroline, began in 1981 when he decided to run for Town Justice in West Seneca. Though his first bid was unsuccessful, Ralph went on to serve as a member of the Town Committee, then Town Chairman, and eventually as an Executive Board Member. In 1990, Ralph became the Erie County Conservative Vice-Chairman and in 1993 was a candidate for the New York State Supreme Court in a narrowly unsuccessful election campaign. Finally in 1995, Ralph became the Erie County Conservative Chairman and continues his work in that position to this day.

In addition to his political career, Ralph is also a dedicated member of the West Seneca Lions Club. He helped start a West Seneca Youth Court in 1984, has taught in the West Seneca Continuing Education program since the 1970's, sat on the West Seneca Continuing Education Board for several years, and has been involved in many other community programs.

Ralph is married to the former Deborah Caruana and has three adult children: son Michael (wife Devonie), son Joe (wife Jean), and daughter Jaime. Ralph and Deborah also have three grandchildren, Adrianna, Alana, and Alexa.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I have had the high privilege of knowing Ralph Lorigo for more than 25 years. As an attorney and political leader, Ralph's career has been one of intense dedication to those whom he has represented. But as a husband, father and community leader, Ralph's true priorities—family, faith and community—have never failed to stand out. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ralph C. Lorigo for his many years of tireless service on behalf of the Western New York community.

HONORING THE 150TH YEAR OF  
ITALIAN UNIFICATION

### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that Congressman BILL PASCRELL and I rise on behalf of the Italian American Delegation to honor the 150th year of Italian Unification.

On March 17th, 2011 the Republic of Italy celebrates their 150th year of unification throughout Italy and across the United States with a series of activities turning 2011 into an "Italian Year."

150 years ago the Risorgimento gave birth to modern Italy, preserving the ideals of western civilization: the protection of the rights, freedoms, and liberty of individuals.

Much of what we are as Americans and what we believe in has roots in Italy. As long time allies, we share a unique partnership in the arts, sciences and politics. Our friendship is strengthened through our common values and historical ties. It has been shaped through the ideas and contributions of great figures like Andrea Palladio and Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Gaetano Filangieri, Giuseppe Garibaldi and Abraham Lincoln.

As co-chairs of the Italian-American delegation, we are proud to represent millions of Americans who like ourselves, are of Italian descent. Our ancestors have brought proud traditions of service with them to the United States. We still share those values today and with assistance from many Italian-American community organizations we continue to pass these traditions onto future generations.

As President Kennedy stated during the Centennial celebration of Italian Unification, "We have the old and the new bound together and inextricably linked, Italy and the United States, past, present and we believe, future."

We proudly recognize and celebrate this 150th anniversary of Italian Unification and the continued friendship between the United States and Italy.

A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, during our celebration of Women's History Month, I would like to take an opportunity to honor the late Honorable Shirley Anita Chisholm. She was a trailblazer and an inspiration for many people across the country, including myself.

Shirley Anita Chisholm was born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, NY to immigrant parents. She was an alumna of Girls High School, and earned her B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1946. In 1952, she went on to earn her M.A. from Columbia University in elementary education. During her time in school she became interested in and became a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the NAACP.

Prior to her political career, she was an educator—a nursery school teacher from her college graduation in 1946 until 1953. From 1953 to 1959, she served as the director of Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center, and from 1959 to 1964 she was an educational consultant for the Division of Day Care in New York City.

Shirley Chisholm's political career began when she ran for the New York State Legislature in 1964. She proudly served there for four years. In 1968, she won election to the United States House of Representatives, becoming the first African-American woman elected to Congress. Congresswoman Chisholm was re-